

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) State Government would take necessary disciplinary action against the officials who were found lax in discharge of their duties.

(b) Immediate action for reducing the overcrowding and providing each tiger/lion an individual feeding cells.

(c) Periodic determination of parasitic loads in all the animals would be carried out and prophylactics would be provided wherever necessary.

(d) The boundary wall of zoo and broken fencing of the Safari would be restored within three months.

(e) Restraint facilities and the isolation wards attached to the zoo hospital would be upgraded immediately.

(f) System for regular checking of the quality of meat and drinking water for the animals would be in place.

(g) the hygiene and sanitation of the zoo shall be improved.

(h) A panel of veterinarians and experts would be constituted for monitoring the implementation of the above recommendations.

(i) State Government would permit direct flow of funds from the Central Zoo Authority to the zoo to avoid delay in execution of work of essential nature.

Hike in prices of Drugs

† *457. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of drugs in the country have increased during the last one year; if so, the percentage increase thereof and whether any new plans have been formulated to control them;

(b) whether Government have chalked out any plan to ensure that prices of drugs, which have increased during the last three years, do not increase further; and

(c) what are the views of multinational companies on controlling the prices of life-saving drugs and latest drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

PRABHU): (a) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been entrusted, *inter alia*, with the task of fixation/revision of the prices of scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and for monitoring the prices. Decisions on pricing of medicines are taken by NPPA in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. As per price index of pharmaceutical formulations, compiled by Operations Research Group (ORG-MARG), the price index (Base-1994-100), during the year 1999, increased by 4.09% over the preceding year.

(b) The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring the availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

(c) Some pharmaceutical industry associations in the country have urged removal of price controls on drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Leave entitlement of Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers

† *458. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers do not get any annual medical leave and are entitled for only ten days' earned leave in a year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intend to provide thirty days' earned leave and ten days' medical leave, with pay, to teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas like other Government servants;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLIMANO HAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) KV Teachers fall in the category of vacation staff. As such they are entitled to leave meant for vacation Deptts. under the CCS(Leave) rules 1972.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.